

inspections are completed and weapons destroyed, the world has handed Saddam Hussein a significant political victory. In fact, it would be a serious mistake to ease economic sanctions against Iraq. President Clinton correctly stated in his Pentagon speech that sanctions have already cost Hussein \$110 billion, and the President aptly wondered how much stronger Hussein's armed forces would be today without sanctions.

Bellyaching about the U.N.-Iraq Agreement, however, does not serve American interests well. Equally shortsighted is the effort to gear up for some future invasion of Iraq while our stated objective remains limited to the "substantial reduction" of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capability. What the United States must do is commit herself to help the Iraqi people liberate their nation from Hussein's dictatorial reign.

The Clinton Administration has incorrectly concluded that the only way to overthrow Hussein is with a massive ground invasion. This assessment grossly overestimates Iraq's military strength. The weaknesses of Iraq's forces were exposed during the Gulf War in 1991, and the Iraqi military is significantly weaker now, in great part because of the cumulative effect of years of sanctions. On the other hand, American intelligence and military preparedness to successfully strike Iraq are significantly stronger.

Several Middle East experts, including Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz, Dean of International Studies at Johns Hopkins, have questioned the notion that only a comprehensive ground invasion by the U.S. can bring down Saddam Hussein. I am convinced that if we take the following steps, in addition to preparing for military action when the next inevitable crisis with Saddam Hussein occurs, we will help to facilitate democracy in Iraq and rid the world of a rogue dictator:

1. Challenge the claim of Saddam Hussein as the legitimate ruler of Iraq. No doubt this goal was made more difficult by the credibility Hussein has garnered through his new international agreement.

2. Make clear the intention of the United States to recognize a provisional government—a Free Iraq—and start with the Iraqi National Congress.

3. Find a mechanism to make the frozen assets of Iraq in the U.S. and elsewhere available to the anti-Hussein forces. The U.S. and U.K. alone have over \$1.6 billion in frozen assets which should be used to finance democratic forces in Iraq.

4. Lift economic sanctions from regions in Iraq that are wrested from Saddam Hussein's control, and make oil resources available to the anti-Hussein forces for humanitarian needs and economic development.

5. Provide weapons and logistical support to the resistance, as well as air cover for liberated areas within the Southern and Northern no-fly zones.

Saddam Hussein remains nothing less than an international war criminal who should stand trial for his crimes against humanity. He has broken every agreement he has made with the United States and the world community since the Gulf War. He will no doubt once again subvert this agreement, and when he does, we must be prepared to initiate military air strikes immediately aimed specifically at destroying Saddam's personal power infrastructure, including his communications network and the Republican guard.

Seven years after the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein is still a menace to his own people and to world peace. Only by assisting the Iraqi people to liberate themselves will we prevent Hussein from becoming an even more serious threat seven years from now.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on 2–25–98 as I was in Central Florida with the President visiting the victims of the horrible tornadoes which struck our community.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #19 (the Nadler amendment to HR 1544) I would have voted no.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #20 (the Conyers amendment to HR 2181) I would have voted no.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #21 (Passage of the Witness Protection and Interstate Relocation Act) I would have voted yes.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #22 (the Jackson-Lee (TX) amendment to HR 1544) I would have voted no.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #23 (the Jackson-Lee (TX) amendment to HR 1544) I would have voted no.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #24 (Passage of HR 1544, Federal Agency Compliance Act) I would have voted yes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN ACT

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, if there was any doubt about the need to make day care safer and more affordable, it should be erased by one clear statistic: 60 percent of mothers with children under the age of six are now in the workforce; a rate 5 times higher than 50 years ago. Of course, some might say these parents are making the wrong "choice" by going to work. But the fact is that many parents don't have a choice. Single mothers obviously have to work to support their children and an increasing number of married couples also both have to work to make ends meet. Rather than ignoring this economic reality, or questioning the role of women in the workforce, we should help these hard-working families find affordable, quality child care.

However, this does not mean we cannot also help families with a parent who stays at home to care for a young child. The debate, after all, is about caring for children, regardless of whether they are in day care or at home.

I am therefore introducing legislation today that focuses on improving child care in six critical areas. The Investment in Children Act would: (1) make day care more affordable for middle-income families by reducing their taxes; (2) provide tax relief to families with a

parent who stays at home to care for a young child; (3) help low-income working families receive day care through the current child care block grant; (4) improve child care quality and safety; (5) encourage businesses to provide child care to their employees; and (6) increase the availability of after-school care.

In my home state of Connecticut, day care costs for young children average about \$7000 a year; presenting a major financial barrier for many families. To help these families pay for quality child care, my legislation would increase the current Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) for every family earning less than \$60,000. This tax cut will help hard-working, middle-income families in Connecticut and throughout the nation afford quality day care for their children. For example, a dual-income family earning \$40,000 a year with two children in routine day care would have their taxes cut by almost \$2000; double the amount of tax relief now provided by the Dependent Care Tax Credit.

The Investment in Children Act would also help those families with a parent who cares for their young children at home. The legislation would allow families with a child under the age of 4 who do not receive the Dependent Care Tax Credit to file for an expanded Child Tax Credit. This credit would be equivalent to the current \$500 Child Tax Credit plus an additional amount equal to the average increase in tax relief provided to two-worker families through the expansion of the DCTC. The provision ensures the same amount of new tax relief for one-worker families caring for a young child at home and two-worker families with a child in day care.

While a tax credit may help many middle-income Americans better afford day care, it may not help low-income working families with limited tax liability. To ensure these families also have access to quality child care, the Investment in Children Act would increase the current Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) by \$8 billion over the next 5 years. States would be required to use no less than 70 percent of this new funding to provide subsidies and other assistance to low-income, working families who need child care. While states can already access the CCDBG to help the working poor, most of the funding is dedicated now to welfare families, leaving too little help for those working in low-wage jobs and still trying to afford quality child care.

When they cannot remain at home with their children, every parent has two basic expectations of any child care arrangement: it should be safe and it should provide a stimulating and nurturing environment. To make this expectation a reality, the Investment in Children Act would spend \$3 billion over the next five years to help states check the safety of day care facilities and to improve the quality of child care programs. For example, the funds could be used by the states to: increase unannounced safety inspections of child care facilities; improve and expand training of child care providers; promote early learning programs; and reduce staff-to-child ratios.

One way to increase the availability of quality day care programs is to encourage businesses to provide on-site day care for their employees' children or to contract with existing child care providers. This legislation therefore includes the Administration's proposal to provide a 25% tax credit (up to \$150,000) for